

About This Report

On April 25, 1994, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) issued the “OSWER Environmental Justice Task Force Draft Final Report.” As a result of this report, a major effort was undertaken in EPA’s waste programs to address environmental justice concerns. In June 1994, EPA’s waste programs developed detailed plans to implement the recommendations of the Task Force Draft Report. Simultaneously, OSWER solicited comments from stakeholders on the Task Force Draft Report, and Headquarters and the Regions began implementing the activities described in the plans. As comments on the Task Force Draft Report were received, OSWER worked to address them in a final report, the “OSWER Environmental Justice Action Agenda,” which is also being released today.

This “Waste Programs Environmental Justice Accomplishments Report,” is the first report on the progress made by the waste programs in the implementation of the environmental justice initiatives. Much of the progress described in this report has come about through the building of partnerships with other government entities and with community groups.

Specifically, this report provides a brief description of each initiative and ongoing activities, dates for completed milestones to summarize progress, and a contact for each initiative. Initiatives where more progress has been achieved are given special focus. The report is divided into two sections:

- Section I, Cross-Cutting Issues, presents initiatives in areas that have implications for all waste programs; and
- Section II, Program-Specific Issues, presents initiatives that focus on a particular waste program.

Both sections are organized by the major topic areas identified in the Task Force Draft Report and the action items recommended under each major topic area. Because of EPA’s integrated and comprehensive approach to addressing environmental justice concerns, there is some overlap of activities between the two sections. For example, initiatives to provide technical assistance under the Native American/Tribal Issues are also found under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program subsection.

The companion to this report, the executive summary, highlights the major accomplishments achieved in addressing environmental justice concerns.